

# Opioid Abuse in Iowa

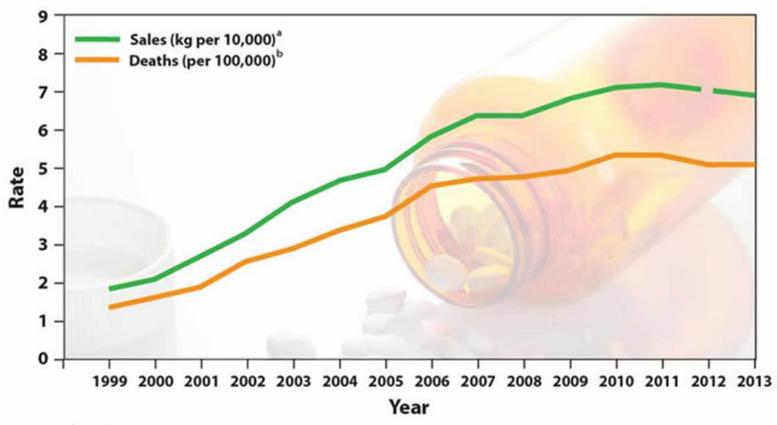
Rx to Heroin



Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy March 2016

#### National Rx Painkiller Trends

#### **Prescription Painkiller Sales and Deaths**

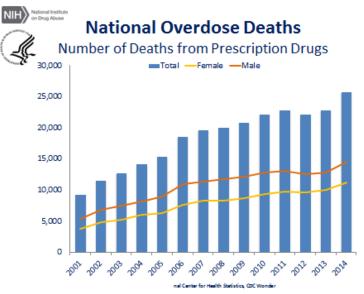


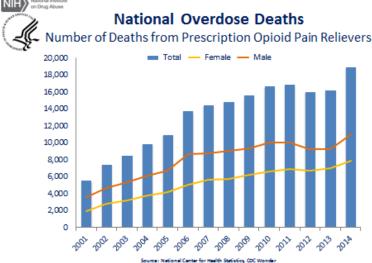
Sources:

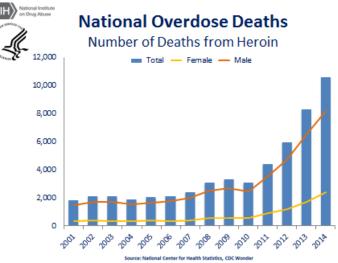
<sup>\*</sup>Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System (ARCOS) of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), 2012 data not available.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Vital Statistics System mortality data. (2015) Available from URL: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/deaths.htm.

#### National Rx-Heroin Trends







#### National Rx-Heroin Trends

#### Heroin use is part of a larger substance abuse problem.

Nearly all people who used heroin also used at least 1 other drug.

Most used at least **3** other drugs.

Heroin is a highly addictive opioid drug with a high risk of overdose and death for users.

#### People who are addicted to...









2x

3x

15x

40x

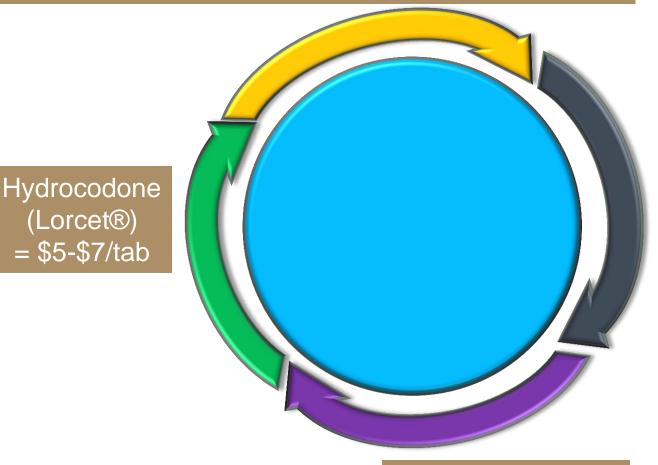
...more likely to be addicted to heroin.

SOURCE: National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 2011-2013.

#### Rx Pain Reliever-Heroin Connection

Oxycodone Combinations (Percocet®) = \$7-\$10/tab

(Lorcet®)



**OxyContin®** = \$80/tab

Roxicodone® Oxycodone IR 15mg, 30mg = \$30-\$40/tab

Heroin = \$10/bag

DEA, 2013

## Types of Medicines Abused

- Opioids (\*Pain Relievers)
  - OxyContin®, Vicodin®, Percocet®



- Ritalin®, Adderall®, Sudafed®
- Anti-Anxieties
  - Xanax®, Valium®
- Anti-Depressants
   –Prozac®, Zoloft®
- Sedatives
  - Rohypnol®, Nembutal®, Seconal®
- Etc.







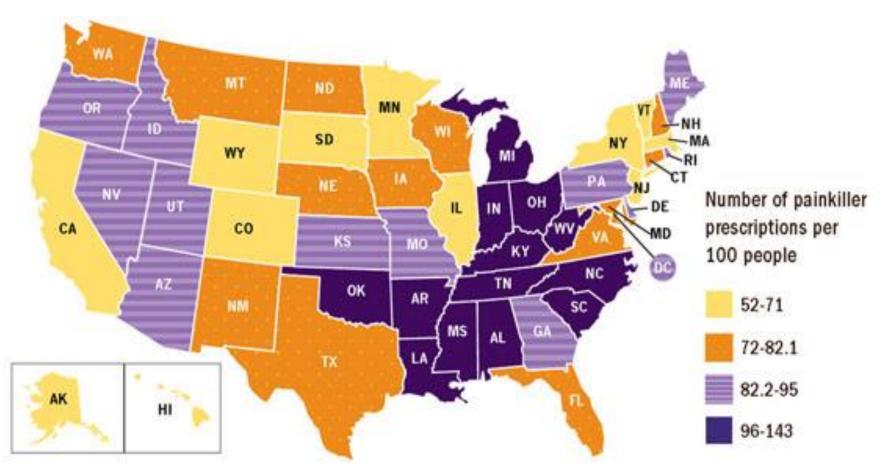


<sup>\*</sup>Hydrocodone combination products became Schedule II Controlled Substances in October 2014.

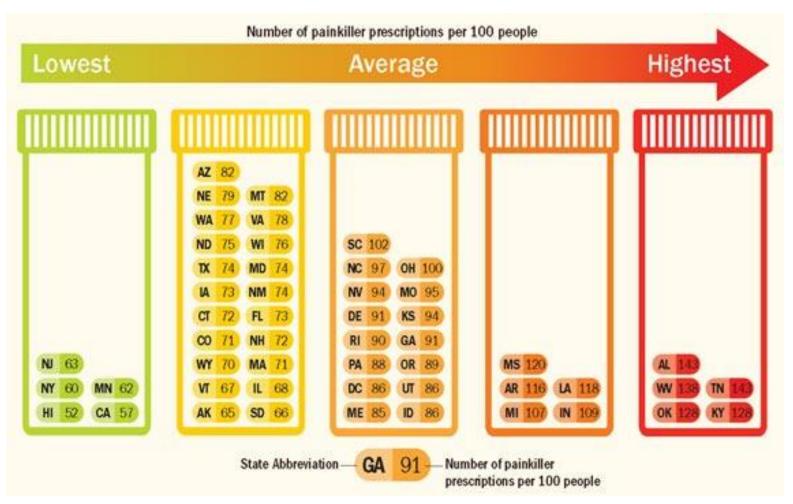
## Rx Diversion/Abuse in Iowa: Summary

- Iowa's Rx abuse rate is lower than the U.S. average (past year nonmedical use of Rx pain relievers = 3.65%...13<sup>th</sup> lowest)
- Opioid abuse is one of the fastest growing forms of substance abuse in the U.S. & Iowa
   (OD deaths at or near all time highs)
- Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) utilization rates by health care professionals are slowly rising
- Cases of suspected "doctor shopping" detected by the PMP may be decreasing

## Pain Reliever Prescriptions: By State

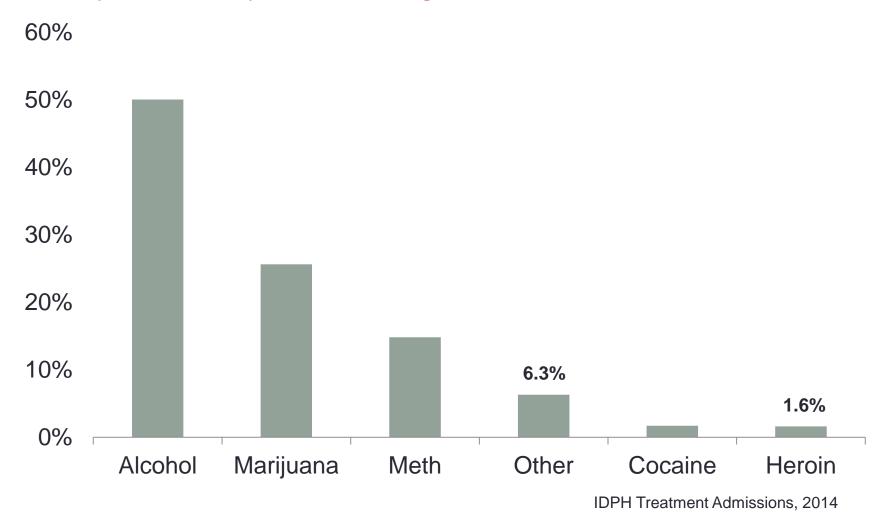


## Pain Reliever Prescriptions: By State



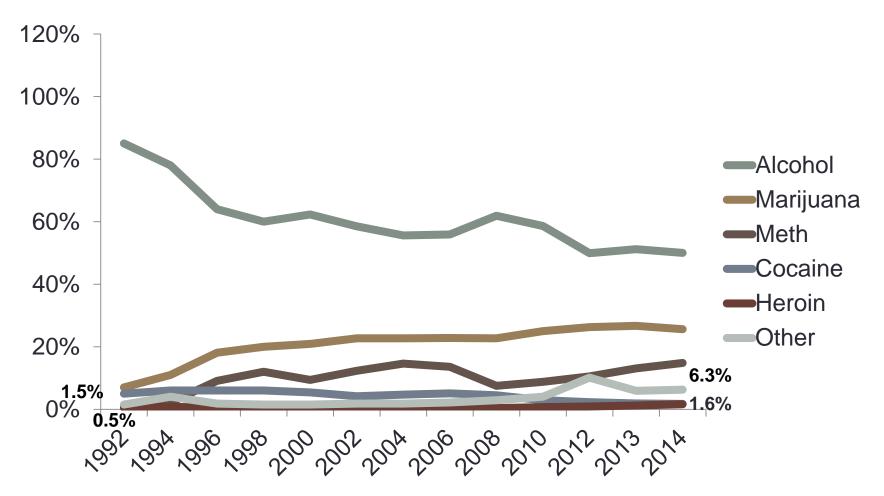
## Drugs of Choice: All Iowans

Primary Substance by Clients Entering Treatment



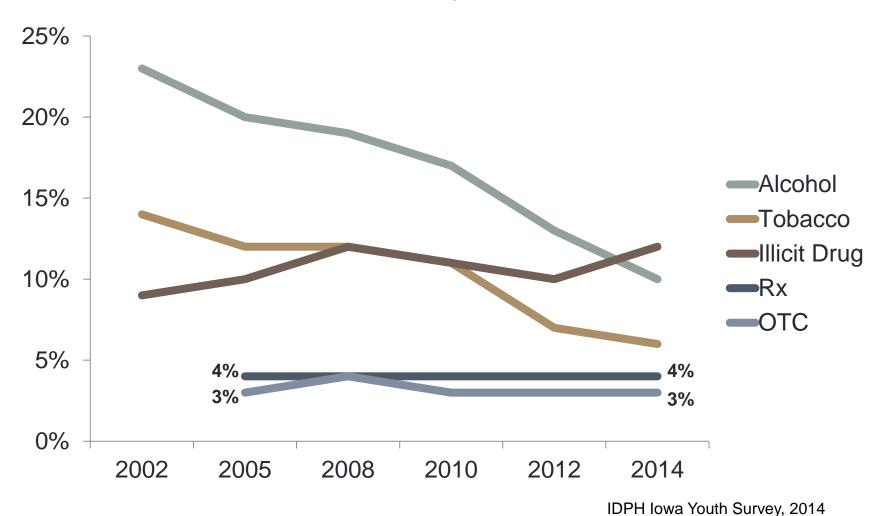
#### Drugs of Choice: All Iowans

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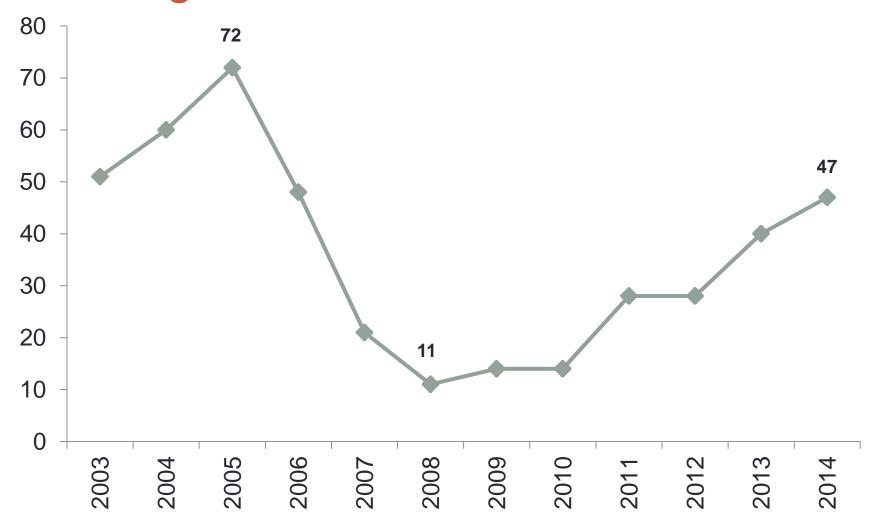


#### Iowa Youth Substance Abuse

6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Users, Last 30-Days



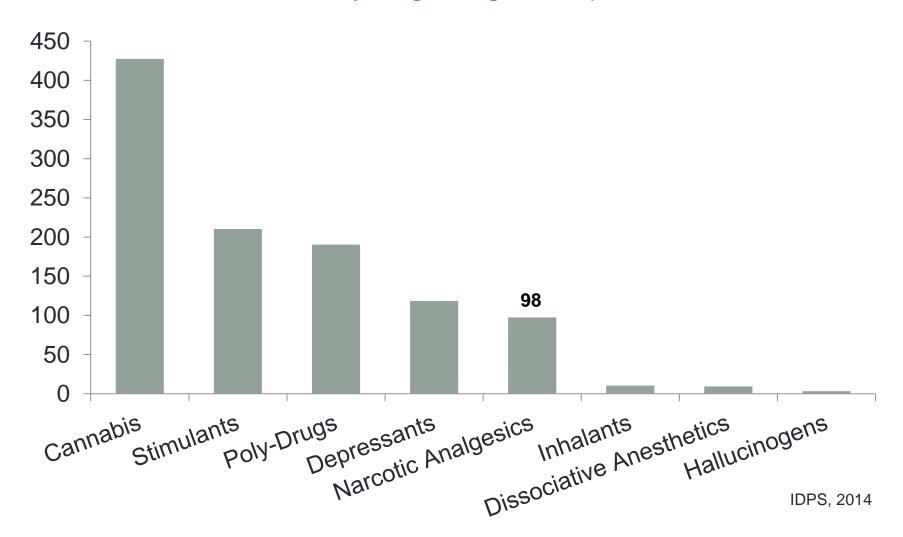
#### Iowa Drug-Related Traffic Fatalities



Iowa Department of Transportation & Iowa Department of Public Safety, Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, 2014

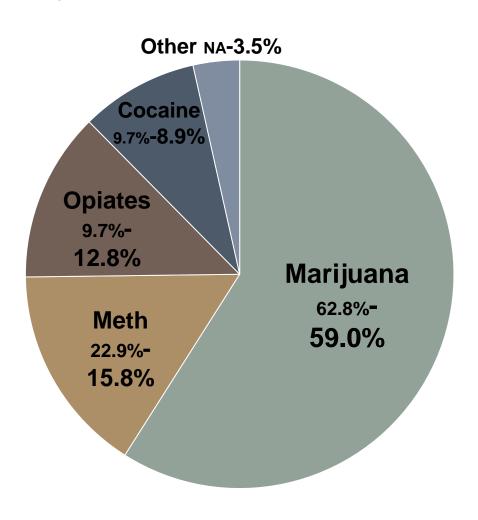
## **Iowa Drug-Impaired Driving**

2014 Non-Alcohol Evaluations by Drug Recognition Experts



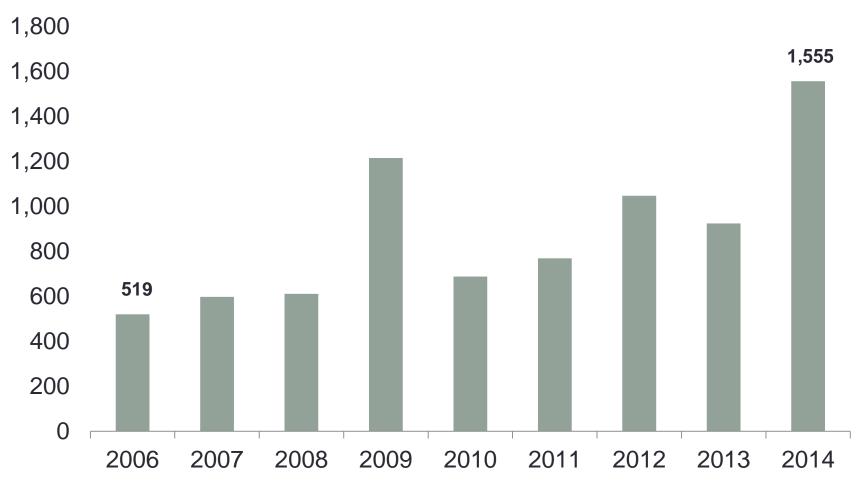
## Iowa's Workplace

Positive Drug Tests Reported 2002-2011



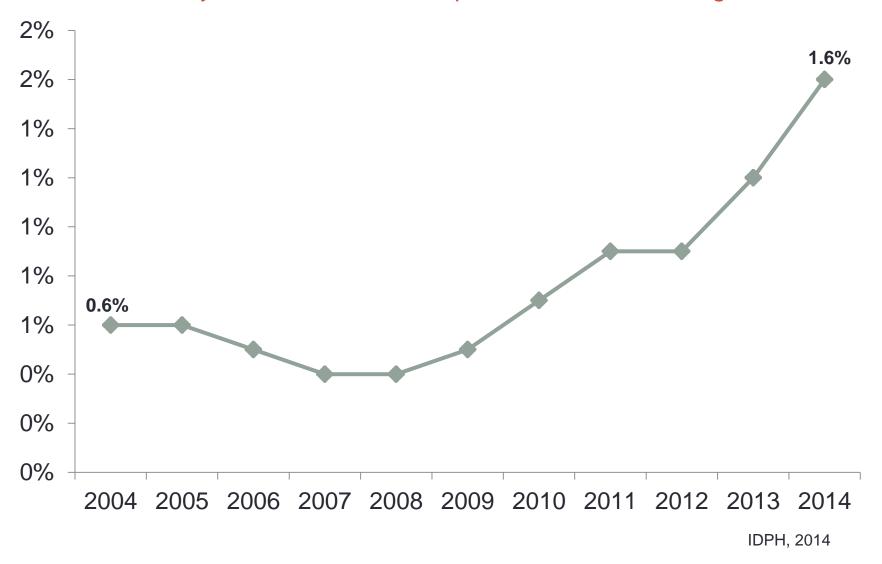
## Iowa Opioid-Related ER Visits

Opioid Use (including Opiates & Others) as Causal or Contributing Factor



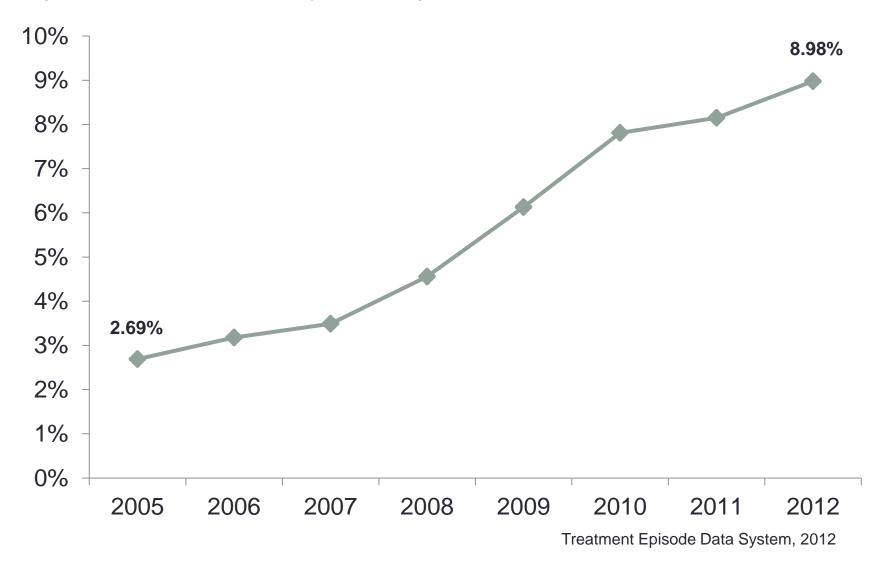
## Iowa Drug Treatment: Numbers

Heroin as Primary Substance of Abuse Upon Admission/Screening



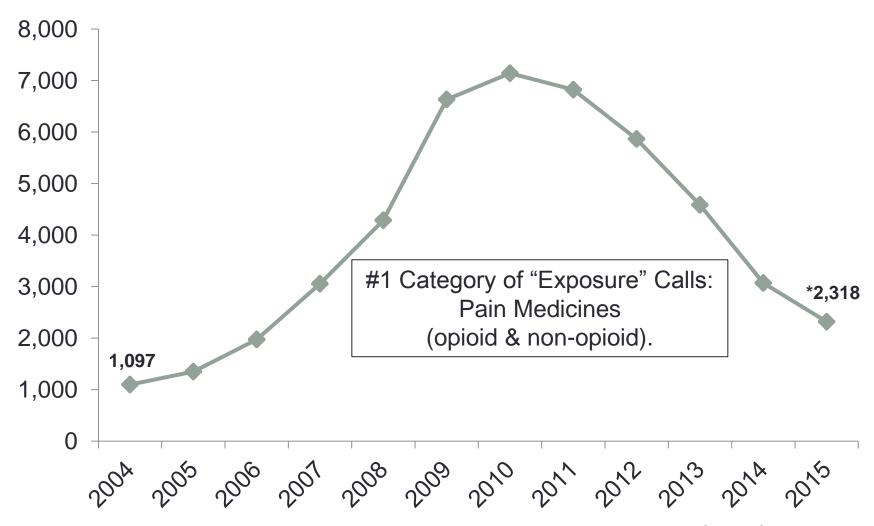
## Iowa Drug Treatment: Percentages

Any Abuse of Non-Heroin Opiates & Synthetics as a % of All Admissions



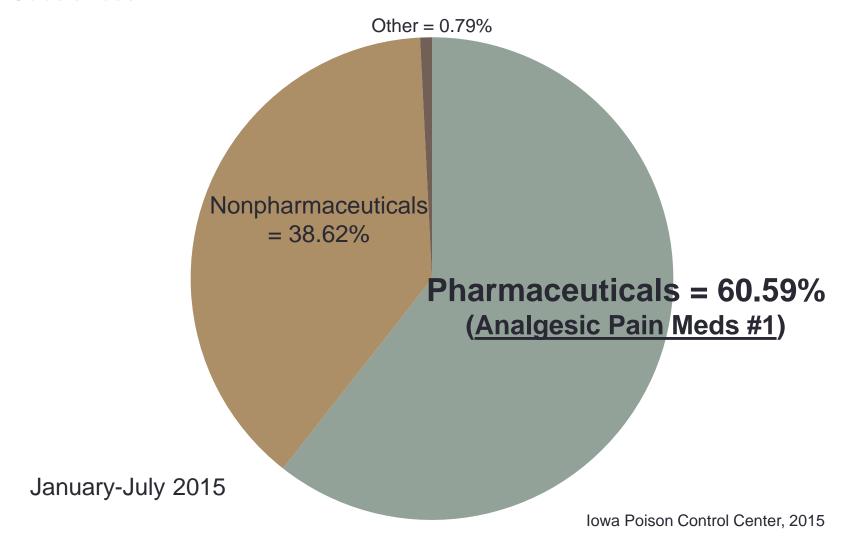
## Poison Center: Public "Help" Calls

Exposure, ID & Info Calls re: Painkillers Hydrocodone & Oxycodone



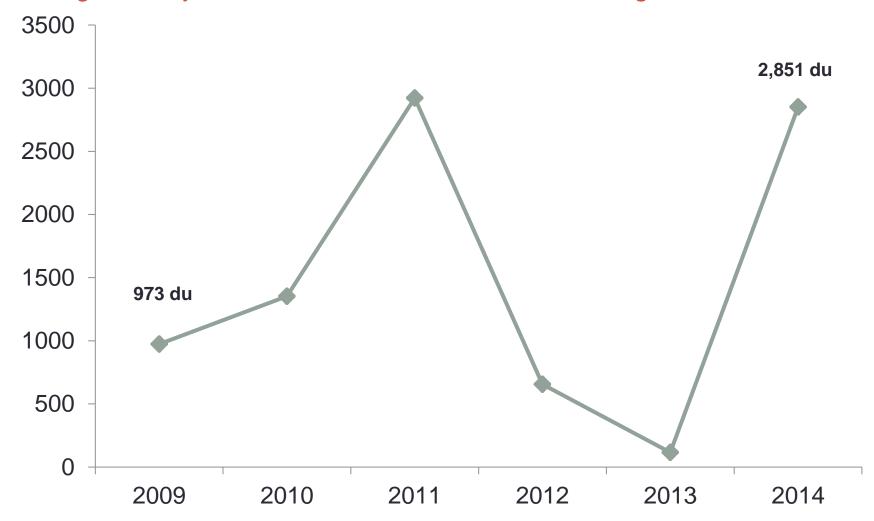
## Iowa Poison Center Toxic Exposure Calls

All Substances



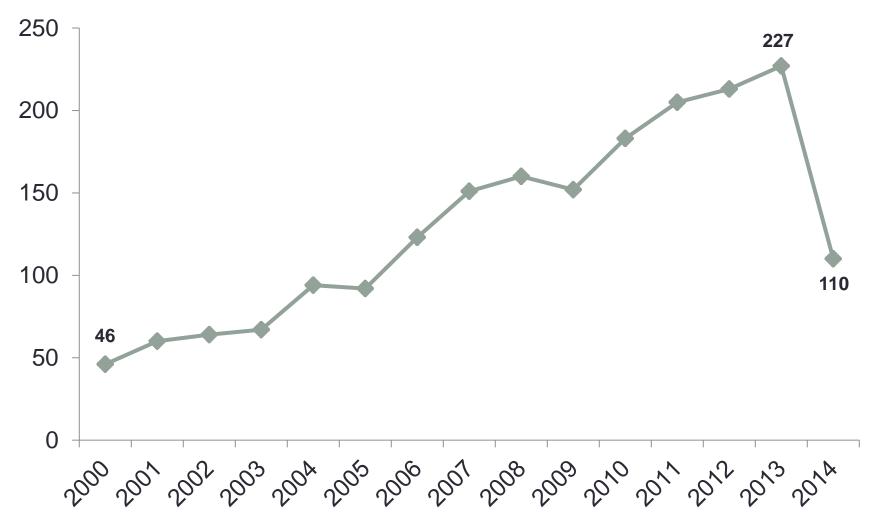
## Controlled Prescription Drug Seizures

In Dosage Units by Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement Agents



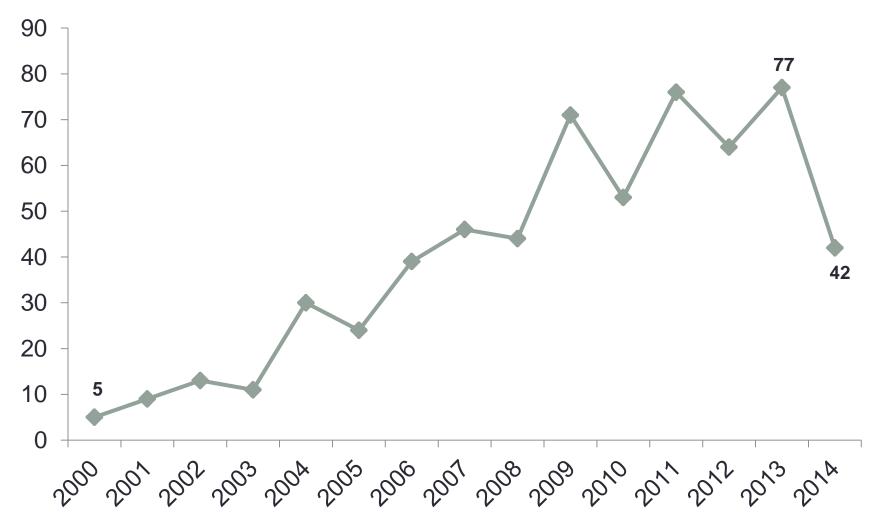
Iowa Department of Public Safety, Division of Narcotics Enforcement, 2015

#### Iowa Drug-Related OD Deaths: All Drugs

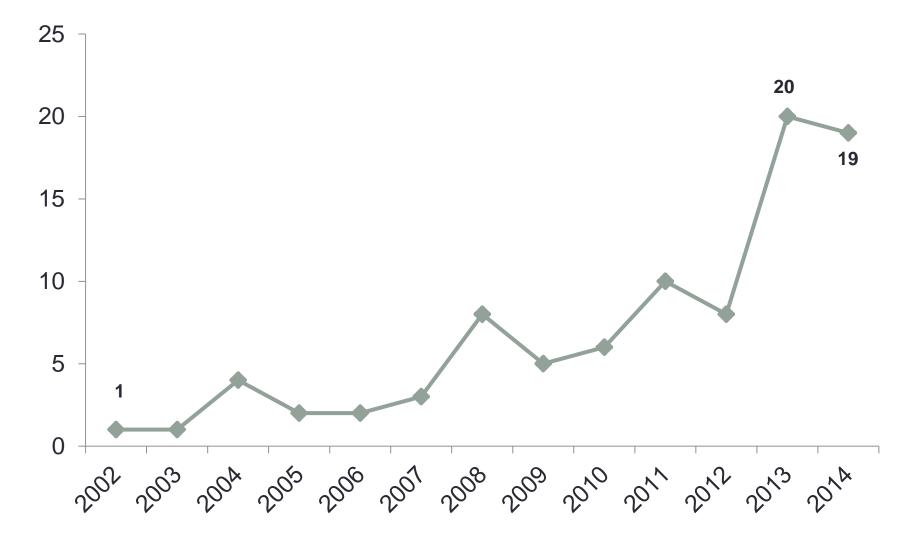


### Iowa Drug-Related OD Deaths: Pain Relievers

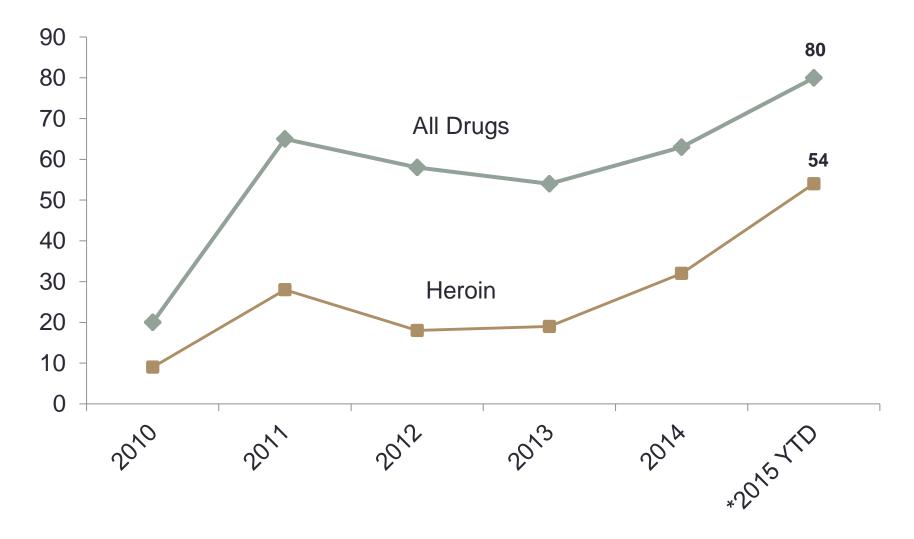
Rx Methadone, Other Opioids & Other Synthetic Narcotics



## Iowa Drug-Related Overdose Deaths: Heroin

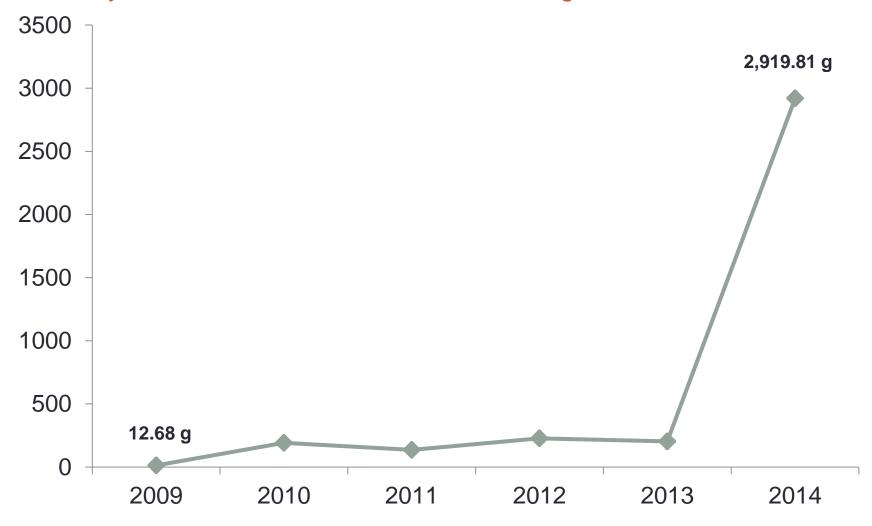


## Drug-Related OD Incidents: Cedar Rapids



#### Heroin Seizures

In Grams by Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement Agents



Iowa Department of Public Safety, Division of Narcotics Enforcement, 2015

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The heroin epidemic: 'It's going to get worse and worse'

Cedar Rapids saw 44 heroin-related overdoses so far this year

Lee Hermiston, The Gazette AUGUST 23, 2015 | 5:00 AM

CEDAR RAPIDS — One narcotics law enforcement officer says taking heroin is similar to grabbing a loaded gun and spinning the chamber.

Even worse, he added, heroin use is spreading in Iowa, and its deadly reach is likely to continue to grow.

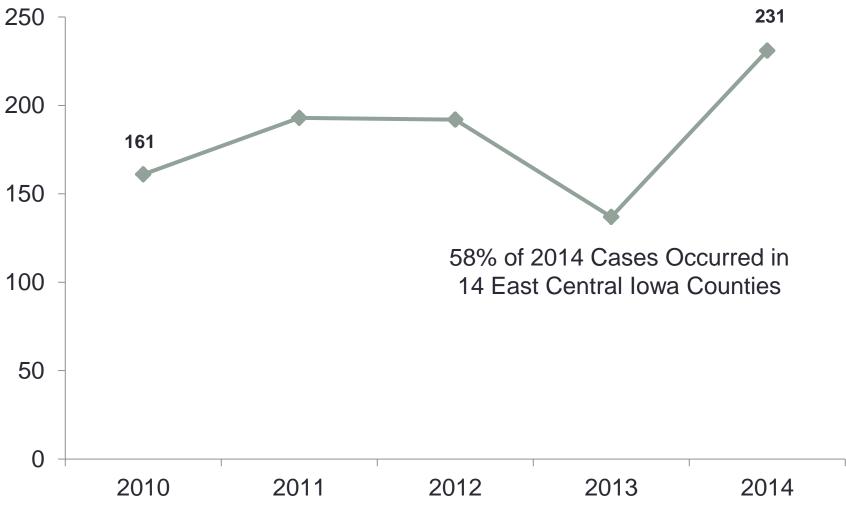
Heroin overdoses, for example, have surged in Cedar Rapids in the past five years.

In 2009, authorities responded to nine reported heroin-related deaths and non-fatal overdoses, which represented 45 percent of all overdoses in Cedar Rapids.



#### Naloxone Use by Iowa EMS Providers

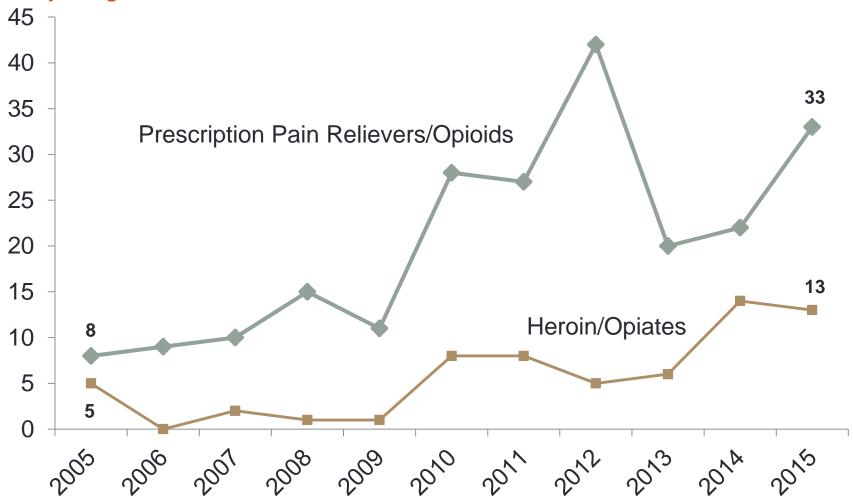
# Times Administered



Iowa Department of Public Health, Emergency & Trauma Services, 2015

## Iowa Drug-Related Prison Admissions

**Primary Drug Involved** 



#### Rx Abuse: Teen Behavior

- 1 in 4 teens (24%) reports having misused or abused a prescription drug at least once in their lifetime.
- Of those kids who said they abused prescription medications, 1 in 5 (20%) has done so before age 14.
- Almost 1 in 4 teens (23%) say their parents don't care as much if they are caught using prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription, compared to getting caught with illegal drugs.

#### Rx Abuse: Teen Attitudes

- One-third of teens (33%) say they believe "it's okay to use prescription drugs that were not prescribed to them to deal with an injury, illness, or physical pain."
- 1 in 5 teens (20%) says prescription pain relievers are not addictive.
- More than a quarter of teens (27%) mistakenly believe that misusing & abusing prescription drugs is safer than using street drugs.
- 1 in 4 teens (25%) says there is little or no risk in using prescription pain relievers without a prescription.

#### Rx Abuse: Parent Attitudes & Behavior

- 29% of parents say they believe ADHD medication can improve a child's academic or testing performance, even if the teen does not have ADHD.
- 1 in 6 parents (16%) believes that using prescription drugs to get high is safer than using street drugs.
- Teens say parents do not discuss prescription drug misuse or abuse with them as frequently as other drug use.
- 1 in 5 parents (20%) report that they have given their teen a prescription drug that was not prescribed for them.
- 17% of parents do not throw away expired medications, & 14% say they have misused or abused prescription drugs in the last year.

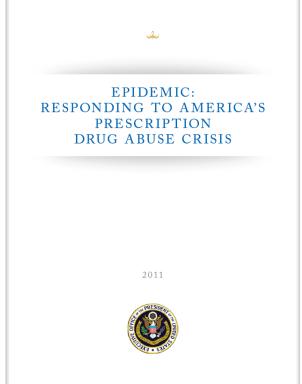
## Online Drug Awareness



## Ease of Access & Perceptions of Safety



### Response to Reduce Rx Abuse





Addressing Prescription Drug Abuse in the United States

Current Activities and Future Opportunities

Developed by the Behavioral Health Coordinating Committee Prescription Drug Abuse Subcommittee U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue SW Washington, DC 20201



#### Reducing Prescription Drug Abuse in Iowa

#### A State Strategy

January 5, 2012

Presented by the
Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP)
502 E. 9th Street, 1th Floor
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
(S15) 725-0300
Web: www.oma.gov.odcp



#### The Iowa Plan

#### Education & Intervention

Media campaigns; student & parent materials; continuing education for health care professionals & medical students; substance abuse helpline

#### Secure Storage & Safe Disposal

Take Backs & Take Aways; more user-friendly disposal methods; management of home medicines & medicine cabinets at home

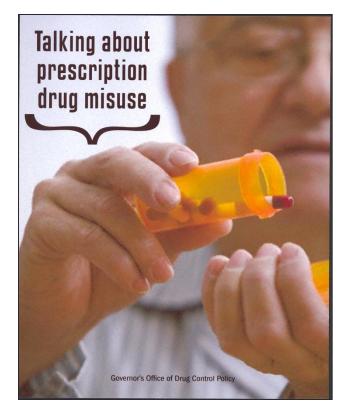
#### Monitoring

PMP enhancements, including: enhanced reporting; easier & faster process; greater info sharing; training; increased utilization

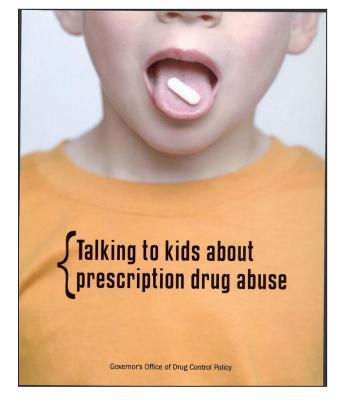
#### Enforcement

Training on investigating Rx diversion, including using the PMP as a tool

#### Rx Abuse Prevention = Heroin Prevention







### Medicine Cabinets: Easy Access

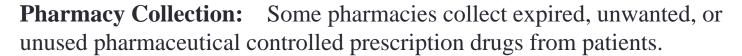
- More than half of teens (56%) indicate that it's easy to get prescription drugs from their parent's medicine cabinet
- Half of parents (495) say anyone can access their medicine cabinet
- More than four in 10 teens (42%) who have misused or abused a prescription drug obtained it from their parent's medicine cabinet
- Almost half (49%) of teens who misuse or abuse prescription medicines obtained them from a friend

### Safe Medicine Disposal



**National Take-Back Events:** Special take-back events are a good way to remove expired, unwanted, or unused medicines from the home.

**Law Enforcement Collection:** A growing number of law enforcement agencies collect expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled prescription drugs on an ongoing basis via secure drop-off boxes.



**Disposal in Household Trash:** You may carefully mix medicines with substances such as kitty litter or used coffee grounds and place them in a container such as a sealed plastic bag to throw in your household trash.

**Disposal by Flushing:** A few medicines have specific instructions to flush them down the sink or toilet when they are no longer needed.

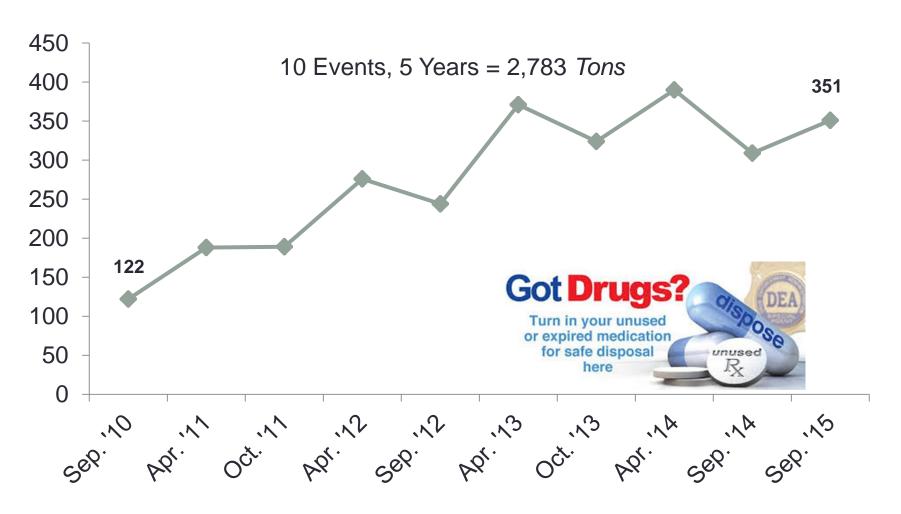






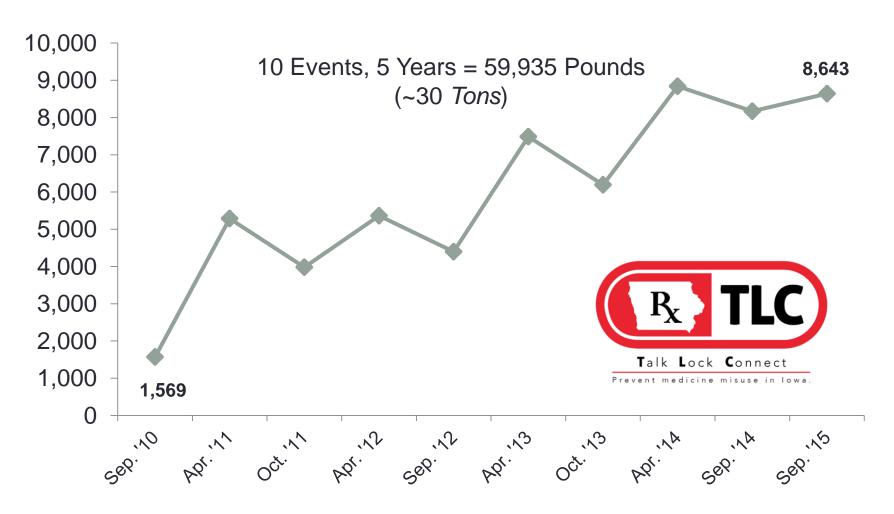
#### U.S. "Take-Back" Initiative

Amount (in Tons) of Rx Drugs Collected



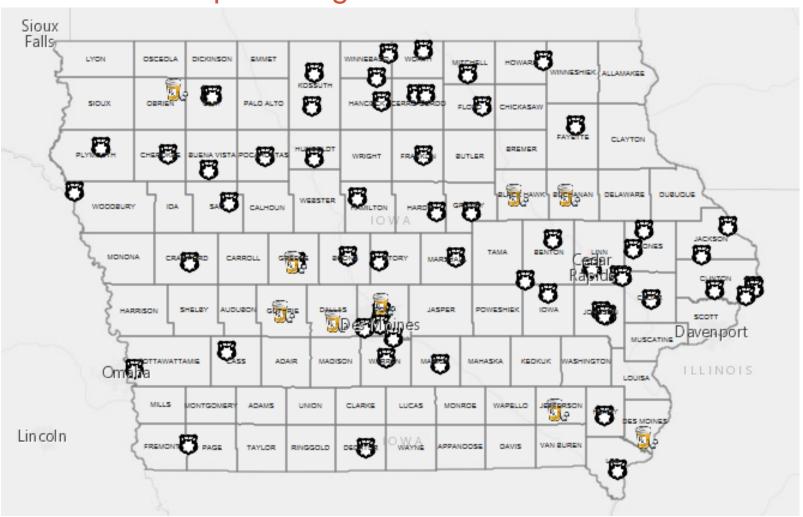
#### Iowa "Take-Back" Initiative

Amount (in Pounds) of Rx Drugs Collected

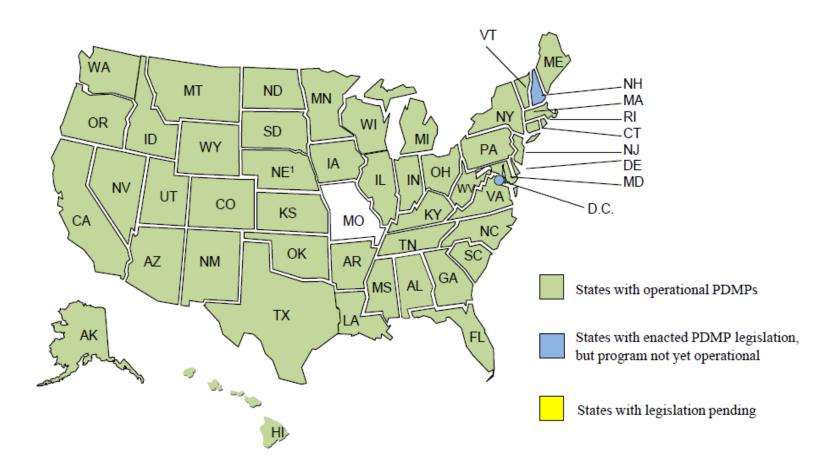


#### Iowa Permanent Rx "Take Back" Sites

Controlled Prescription Drugs



### State Prescription Monitoring Programs



#### Iowa PMP: Summary

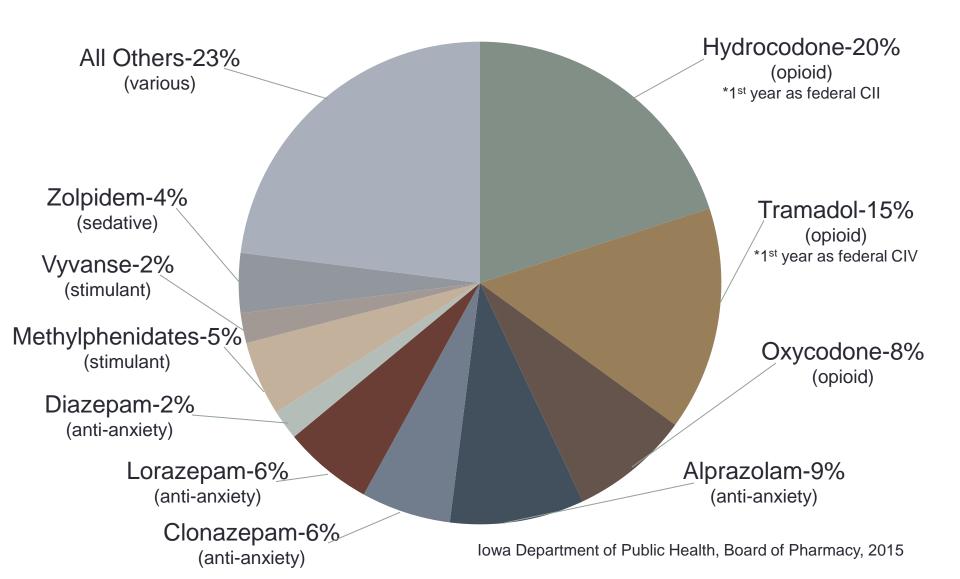
#### **Prescription Monitoring Program**

- Emphasis on patient health care & privacy since 2009
- All pharmacies must report all Schedule II, III & IV CSs dispensed within 7 days
- PMP queries by pharmacies & prescribers voluntary
- Access may be delegated to registered agents
- Law enforcement & regulator PMP access requires "probable cause"
- Limited interstate sharing/connectivity

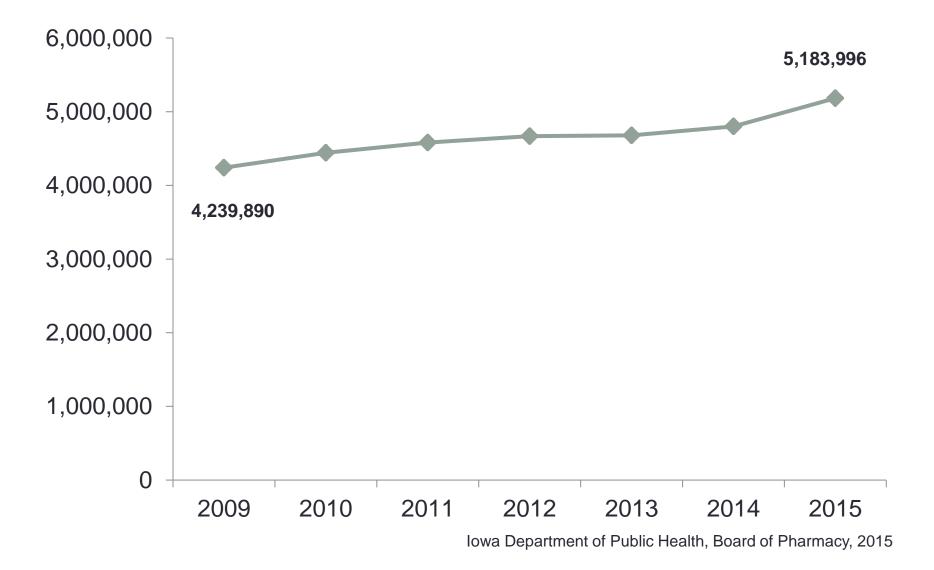
#### Iowa PMP: Results

- No adverse impacts on prescribing or dispensing (prescriptions & doses continue increasing)
- Prescriber, pharmacy, regulator & law enforcement utilization/consultation rates slowly increasing
- PMP appears to be working to detect & deter "doctor shopping," with future potential benefits even greater
- Perception of PMP slowly evolving from "useful option" to essential tool, though many still not aware

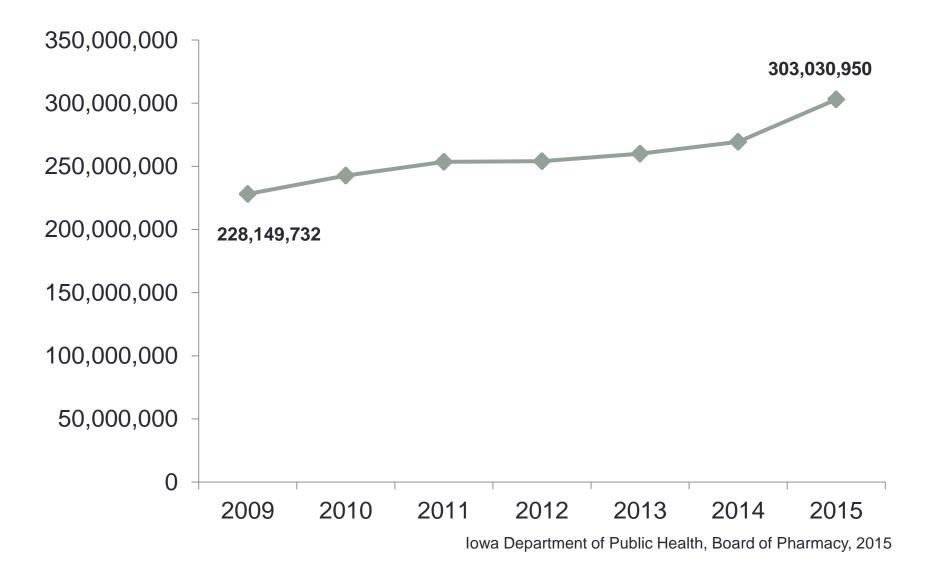
#### Iowa PMP: Most Prescribed Clls-CIVs



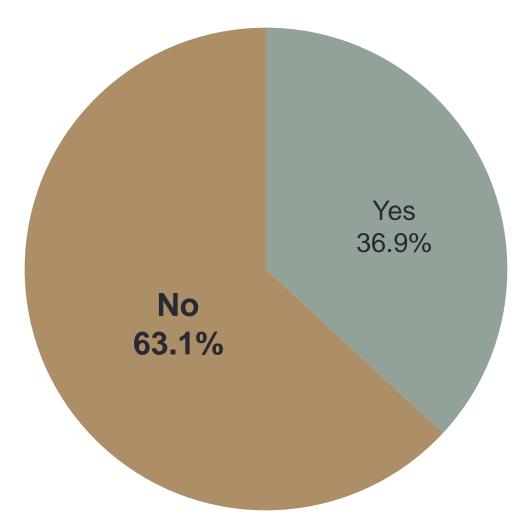
### Iowa PMP: Total Prescriptions Dispensed



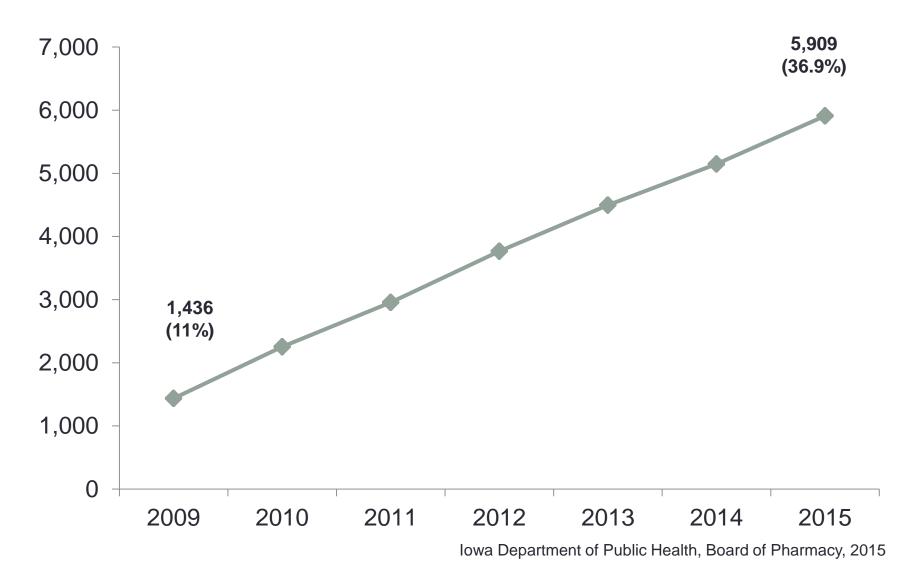
#### Iowa PMP: Prescription Doses Dispensed



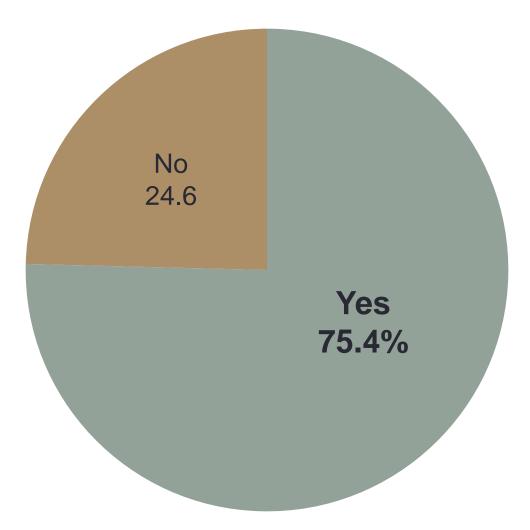
### Iowa PMP: Prescribers Registered



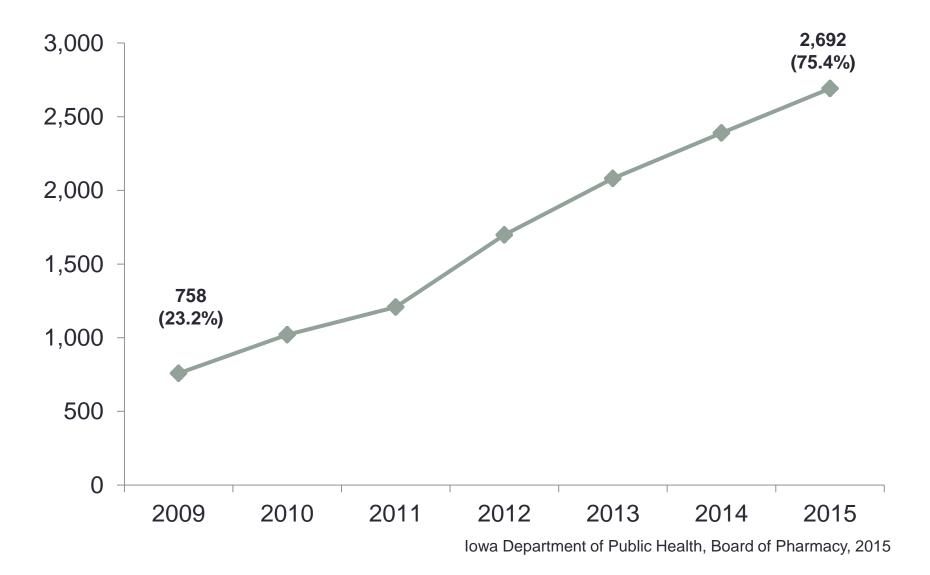
#### Iowa PMP: Prescribers Registered



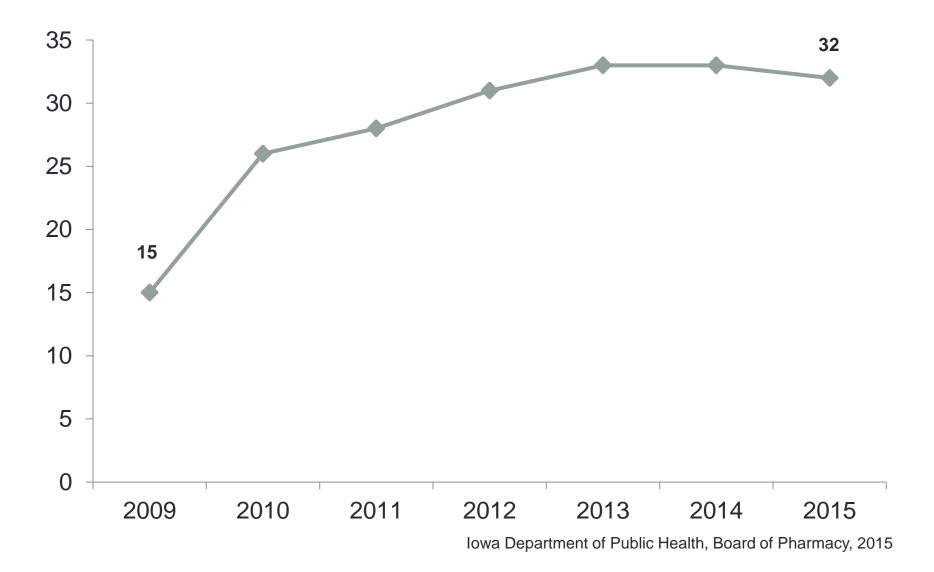
## Iowa PMP: Pharmacists Registered



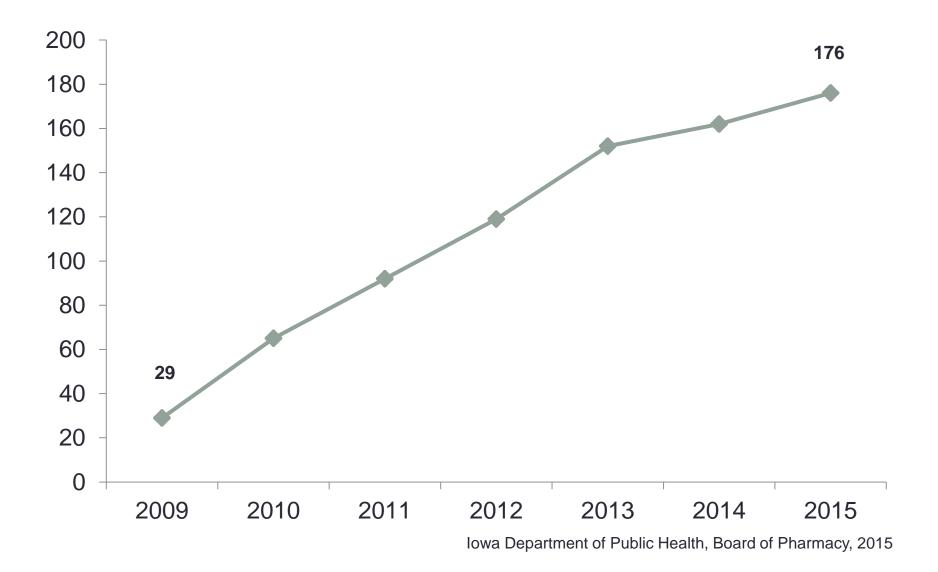
#### Iowa PMP: Pharmacists Registered



### Iowa PMP: Regulators Registered

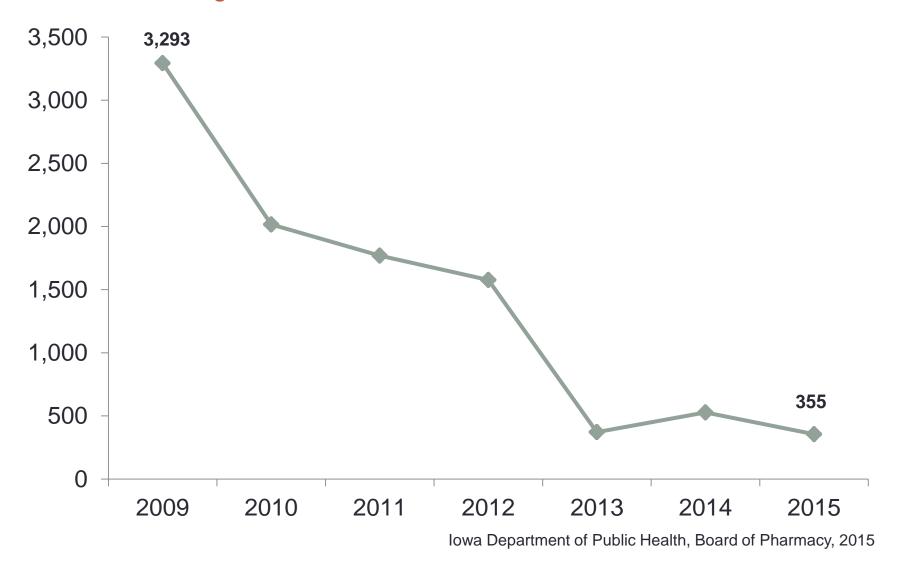


### Iowa PMP: Law Enforcement Registered



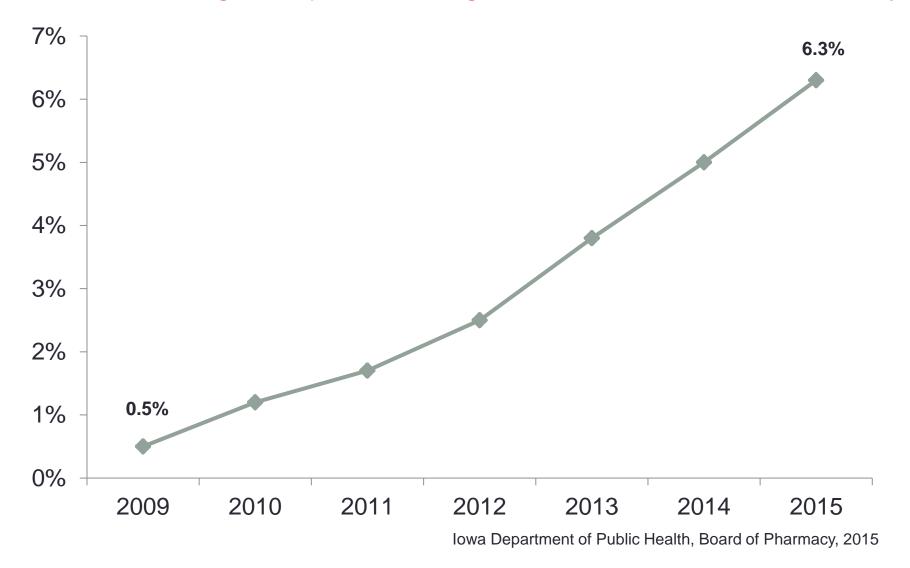
### Iowa PMP: "Doctor Shopping?"

Patients Receiving C IIs, IIIs & IVs from 5 or More Prescribers or Pharmacies



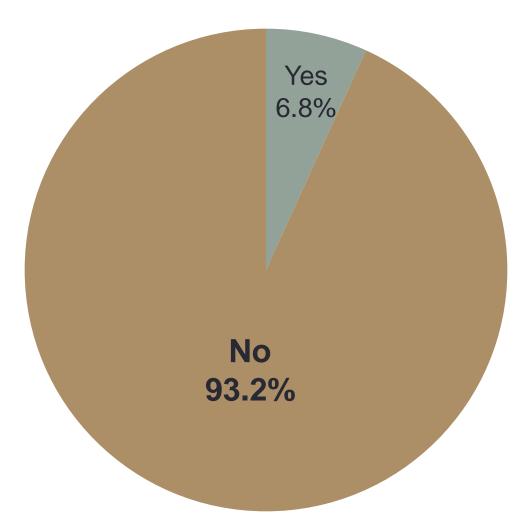
#### Iowa PMP: Health Care Queries

% of Controlled Drug Prescriptions Resulting in Prescriber or Pharmacist PMP Query



#### Iowa PMP: Health Care Queries

% of Controlled Drug Prescriptions Resulting in Prescriber or Pharmacist PMP Query



#### Progress

PMP enhancements to deter "doctor shopping"

Continuing opioid education for health care professionals

Expanded options for safe medicine disposal

Increasing awareness of potential Rx/Opioid abuse dangers promotes family prevention

**Medication Assisted Treatment** 

Naloxone opioid overdose "reversal" drug

### Challenges

Medicines can work wonders & are perceived as safe (& "safer than other drugs")

Opioids can be very addictive, & even lethal when misused

The abuse of Rx opioids can lead to heroin use & addiction

Tons of Rx opioids go unused, creating easy access for diverters or abusers

Pain is real, but subjective

# STAY SAFE!



Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy <a href="https://www.iowa.gov/odcp">www.iowa.gov/odcp</a>